AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1 - 2, and 5 - 10 without prejudice.

1   3. (currently amended) ~~The method of claim 1, further~~
2   ~~comprising the steps of:~~ A method for providing secure access to
3   information held in a shared repository, comprising the steps of:

4   storing, on a data server, information provided by a data
5   owner;

6   providing, to the data owner, a data owner public key and a
7   data owner private key, the data owner public key and the data
8   owner private key being a first key pair of a public-key
9   cryptography system;

10   providing the data owner public key to the data server;

11   providing, to a data user, a data user public key and a data
12 user private key, the data user public key and the data user
13 private key being a second key pair of the public-key
14 cryptography system;

15   providing the data user public key to the data server;

16   sending the data user public key from the data user to the
17 data owner;

18   encrypting the data user public key by the data owner, using
19 the data owner private key, to provide an encrypted data user
20 public key;

1   sending, by the data owner to the data server, the encrypted

2   data user public key and a command that gives the data server

3   permission to transfer the information to the data user;

4   decrypting the encrypted data user public key, using the

5   data owner public key, to provide a check word;

6   comparing the check word and the data user public key;

7   if the step of comparing the check word and the data user

8   public key indicates that the check word and the data user public

9   key match, recording permission to transfer the information in an

10   access list;

11   encrypting the data owner public key, by the data user,

12   using the data user private key, to provide an encrypted data

13   owner public key;

14   sending, from the data user to the data server, the

15   encrypted data owner public key and a request to transfer the

16   information to the data user;

17   decrypting the encrypted data owner public key using the

18   data user public key, to provide a second check word;

19   comparing the second check word and the data owner public

20   key;

21   if the step of comparing the second check word and the data

22   owner public key indicates that the second check word and the

23   data owner public key match, checking the access list to

24   determine whether the data server has permission to transfer the

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1   information; and,

2   if the data server has permission, transferring the
3   information from the data server to the data user.

4   4. (original) The method of claim 3, further comprising the
5   step of sending the data owner public key from the data owner to
6   the data user.

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